

## Hazardous Waste Factsheet for Local Governments

### Introduction

Local governments may be generators, transporters and/or receivers of hazardous waste, and have the same responsibilities as other organizations conducting these activities in accordance with the [Hazardous Waste Regulation](#) (HWR).

Hazardous wastes can harm human health or the environment if not properly handled or disposed of. Hazardous wastes may range from paints, oils, and solvents to acids, heavy metals, pesticides, building materials and contaminated soils.

Infrastructure owned by local governments that generates hazardous waste may include pools, ice rinks, fire departments, public works, maintenance yards and other infrastructure.

### Federal Transport of Dangerous Goods Regulation

Many hazardous wastes are also dangerous goods and are regulated under the federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulation (TDGR). More specifically, Class 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 dangerous goods are regulated under the HWR if they are no longer used for their intended purpose. For these wastes, the HWR requires compliance with the TDGR requirements for labelling and containers ([Section 50](#)).

The TDGR also outlines a variety of other requirements, including training for generators or shippers, which are additional to the HWR. For this reason, the waste generator must have a good understanding of the TDGR. The *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* and Regulations are available online [here](#).

### Responsibilities of a Generator

The generator of a hazardous waste is responsible for knowing the composition, properties and origin of the waste. The services of an accredited analytical laboratory may be needed to determine some of this information.

If a generator engages a third party to handle and dispose of the waste, the generator still has a responsibility to ensure compliance with the HWR as the generator of the waste.

### Classifying a Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste is defined in Part 1 of the HWR. The regulation only regulates wastes, and not products or goods.

The generator is responsible for determining if a waste is hazardous and what type of hazardous waste it is through a process called classification. Classifying a hazardous waste can be described as a process of elimination where the waste is checked against the different types of hazardous waste described in the definition and verifying if any exclusions apply.

Laboratory analysis and/or information from manufacturers or suppliers (of a product that became a waste) may be needed to classify a waste. A hazardous waste third-party service provider can help a generator classify their waste.

### Key Points:

A generator of hazardous waste is responsible for characterizing the waste.

A generator is responsible for the waste until receipt at registered site (receiving site)

Many hazardous wastes are also dangerous goods and are regulated under the federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulation

Registration is required if generating and/or storing a hazardous waste in quantities greater than outlined in Schedule 6 of the Hazardous Waste Regulation.

Before shipping a hazardous waste, a generator must verify that the receiving site is authorized to accept the waste.

In many cases, a licence to transport and manifest is required when transporting hazardous waste by road.

See Figure 1 for the steps to follow when classifying waste.

## Registration as Generator

Every facility that produces or stores more than registration quantities ([Schedule 6](#)) in a 30-day period must register as a generator with a director (Section 43, HWR). For example, registration would be required if a municipal building generated more than 500 kg of demolition waste that met the definition of a leachable toxic waste in a 30-day period. Registration can be done [online](#). The generator must estimate the quantity of hazardous waste that will be generated and indicate whether the generation will be ongoing, intermittent or one-time only. Should the generated quantity vary significantly, it is recommended that the registrant provides the maximum anticipated quantity during registration.

### When engaging a third party, a generator should verify:

- The transporter has a licence to transport (if required).
- A manifest is used (if required), and manifest copies are distributed between parties and sent to the ministry as required.
- The receiving site is a registered site and is authorized to receive the hazardous waste.
- The waste has been shipped and received as intended (confirmed when generator receives manifest copy from receiving site).

## Storage and Labelling

The HWR outlines a variety of storage and labelling requirements (Section 50), including the following requirements:

- Waste must be stored in a container that is made of compatible materials (incompatible materials must never be mixed or come in contact with one another).
- Containers must be kept closed except when they are being filled or emptied.
- Containers that store hazardous wastes that are also dangerous goods must be labelled in accordance with the TDGR. All hazardous wastes must be labelled with the proper shipping name.
- Containers must be stored and handled in a way that avoids leakage or rupture.

If storing more than the registration quantities, the storage must be registered and the facility must comply the requirements applicable to a storage facility (Sections 3 -17, HWR).

## Registration as a Registered Site

A facility that receives and stores more than registration quantities generated at another site at any time must register the hazardous waste and apply for a registered site number (Section 43, HWR).

A registered site number is also required when a facility treats, recycles or disposes more than the registration quantities during a one-day period. For example, a registration would be required when a municipal or regional landfill receives more than a 1,000 kg of waste asbestos. More information on registration is available [here](#).

In addition to a registration number, registered sites also require ministry authorization to operate.

## Authorization to Receive Hazardous Wastes

Before shipping hazardous waste, a generator must verify that the receiving site is authorized to accept the waste. Verification can be done through a search of the Authorization Management System (online system or excel spreadsheet) [here](#). A receiver may not accept hazardous waste if it will result in more hazardous waste than the site is authorized for.

## Transport Licence

In most cases, a licence to transport is required when transporting hazardous waste by road. A licence is not needed if:

- The amount of waste or the transport distance is small enough (< 3 km) that a manifest is not required.
- The waste is transported solely on a property controlled by the person storing or generating the waste.

- The waste is transported by the person who generated it, and the amount is smaller than quantity presented in [Schedule 6](#).

A generator must verify whether a licence to transport is required and whether the service provider holds a valid licence. Verify the provider holds a valid licence [here](#). To obtain a licence, some of the requirements include \$5M of third-party liability insurance, a contingency plan and the successful completion of a knowledge exam. More information on how to apply and the exam can be found [here](#).

## **Hazardous Waste Manifests**

In general, the use of a manifest is required to transport more than the following quantities of hazardous waste:

- 5 kg or more of solid hazardous waste, other than batteries;
- 5 L or more of liquid hazardous waste, other than oil;
- Any quantity of gases in containers having a total capacity of 5 L or more;
- 210 L or more of waste oil;
- Any quantity of solids or liquids containing 500 g or more of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB);
- 1,000 kg or more of waste batteries; and
- 210 L or more of waste paint.

Exemptions for the use of a manifest are presented in [Section 46](#). The responsibility for the completion of a manifest is divided between the generator, carrier and the receiver. Instructions for completing a manifest are on the back of the manifest, and a copy of the manifest must be kept by the generator, carrier and receiver.

Guidance on how to complete a manifest is available [here](#).

## **Accepting Hazardous Waste**

Most local governments do not operate facilities that accept hazardous waste. If landfilled, hazardous waste must be disposed of at a secure landfill. Local governments do not typically operate these types of facilities.

In some circumstances, hazardous waste can be disposed of in a municipal or regional landfill. For example, waste asbestos can be disposed of in a municipal or regional landfill under the following conditions:

- The waste material is defined as “waste asbestos” using the methods outlined in [Section 40](#).
- The waste asbestos is contained during handling, storage and transport as outlined in Section 40.
- The waste asbestos is buried immediately at the landfill, with 0.5 m of cover material.
- The disposal is approved by the landfill operator and a director, as defined by the *Environmental Management Act*.

## **Accepting Household Hazardous Wastes**

Households can generate a variety of hazardous wastes (e.g., lubricating oils, solvents, lithium batteries, pool chemicals). This guidance is not intended apply to household hazardous wastes from individuals but to waste generated directly by a local government. Local governments may operate return collection facilities that accept household hazardous waste from individuals. Requirements for the operation of a return collection facility can be found on our [website](#) and in the HWR.

## **Additional Considerations and Requirements**

This factsheet does not address requirements outside of the HWR and the TDGR. Requirements under the *Environmental Management Act*, the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* or other applicable occupational health and safety regulations, bylaws, building codes, fire codes, etc. may need to be reviewed.

## Hazardous Waste Resources

- [Environmental Management Act](#)
- [Hazardous Waste Regulation](#)
- [Hazardous Waste Legislation Guide](#)
- [Empty Container Guidance](#)
- [Transporting Hazardous Waste](#)
- [Export and Import of Hazardous Waste in Canada](#)

For more information on the Hazardous Waste Regulation, visit:

[www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/hazardous-waste](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/hazardous-waste)

**Note:** The information on this page is guidance only. Please refer to the [Hazardous Waste Regulation](#) for specific regulatory requirements.

Figure 1: Classification Flowchart

